

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

SAJ-01 SAM-01 TRSE-00 CPR-01 SCA-01 /072 R

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APPROVED BY EUR/SOV:MGARRISON

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R 052208Z JUN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJECT: ARRIVAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR SOVIET AMBASSADOR

1. WHILE IN DEPT ON OTHER BUSINESS JUNE 4 SOVIET DCM
VORONTSOV COMPLAINED OF TREATMENT ACCORDED DOBRYNIN ON
HIS ARRIVAL AT DULLES MAY 30. ALTHOUGH VORONTSOV
EMPHASIZED THAT DOBRYNIN WAS HANDLED COURTEOUSLY BY CUSTOMS
AND AIRPORT AUTHORITIES HE WAS NOT TREATED DIFFERENTLY THAN
OTHER FIRST-CLASS PASSENGERS (WITH DIPLOMATIC STATUS).
THEREFORE SOVIET EMBASSY HAS RECOMMENDED TO MFA THAT
AMBASSADOR STOESSEL BE ACCORDED NO SPECIAL COURTESIES IN
EXCESS OF THOSE PROVIDED TO FIRST-CLASS DIPLOMATIC
PASSENGERS IN MOSCOW.

2. SOV DIRECTOR EXPRESSED REGRET THAT USUAL ARRANGEMENTS
WHICH WE HAD LAID ON FOR DOBRYNIN ARRIVAL HAD BROKEN DOWN
THIS TIME. IN RESPONSE TO LAST MINUTE CALL FOR SOVIET
CONSULAR OFFICER AT AIRPORT HE HAD PERSONALLY CONTACTED
CHIEF OF WASHINGTON CUSTOMS AND OBTAINED ASSURANCES THAT
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ARRIVAL WOULD BE HANDLED AS IN THE PAST. REGRETABLELY THIS

WAS NOT THE CASE BUT WE ARE TAKING STEPS TO AVOID SUCH MISUNDERSTANDINGS IN FUTURE.

3. THE ISSUE AT DULLES IS USE OF ADDITIONAL MOBILE LOUNGE TO TRANSPORT AMBASSADOR AND HIS PARTY TO TERMINAL SEPARATE FROM OTHER PASSENGERS WHILE BAGGAGE BEING DEALT WITH BY SOVIET EMBASSY STAFF. FYI AIRPORT REGULARLY PROVIDES SPECIAL LOUNGE AT REQUEST OF AIRLINES BUT BILLS THEM 34 DOLLARS FOR SERVICE. IF USG REQUESTS LOUNGE, AIRPORT PROVIDES IT FREE OF CHARGE. END FYI CUSTOMS MUST ALSO GRANT PERMISSION FOR WELCOMING SOVIET EMBASSY PERSONNEL TO GO TO PLANESIDE IN LOUNGE TO MEET AMBASSADOR, WHICH WAS APPARENTLY SNAG ON MAY 30. DOBRYNIN CAME IN ON LOUNGE WITH OTHER FIRST-CLASS PASSENGERS, FORCING WELCOMING PARTY TO RUSH FROM QUOTE SPECIAL LOUNGE UNQUOTE WHERE THEY HAD BEEN WAITING TO ARRIVAL POINT FOR REGULAR LOUNGE.

4. SOV DIRECTOR SAID WE HAD JUST BEEN ADVISED THAT MFA HAD TURNED DOWN REQUEST FOR PERMISSION FOR SPECIAL FLIGHT TO PICK UP AMBASSADOR AND WONDERED WHETHER THIS WAS CONNECTED WITH VORONTSOV'S COMPLAINT. VORONTSOV REPLIED THAT EMBASSY RECOMMENDATION HAD NOT GONE THIS FAR AND THAT IF TWO EVENTS ARE CONNECTED IT REPRESENTS MFA INITIATIVE.

5. WE WILL MAKE CONCERTED EFFORT AT WHATEVER LEVEL NECESSARY TO GET PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING DOBRYNIN AT DULLES BACK ON TRACK. FOR USE IN OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER OFFICES, PLEASE PROVIDE DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF SPECIAL COURTESIES EXTENDED TO AMBASSADOR ON ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE ON SPECIAL AND COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS, CONTRASTING THIS IF POSSIBLE WITH TREATMENT ACCORDED OTHER AMBASSADORS IN MOSCOW. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE131708
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RLBARRY:BAL
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750197-1065
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750676/aaaacrtd.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 JUN 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <22 OCT 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARRIVAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR SOVIET AMBASSADOR
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, PDIP, UR, US, (DOBRYNIN, ANTOL), (STOESSEL)
To: MOSCOW
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006